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THE FOLK LORE OF CATS.

SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT PUSS RELIGIOUSLY HELD BY MANY.

Some of the Peculiar Beliefs of Jack Tar. The Cat Used to Cure or Transfer Disease—The Black Cat Sure to Bring Luck to the Lassie.

Cats have the reputation of being weatherwise, an old notion which has given rise to a most extensive folk lore. It is almost universally believed that good weather may be expected when the cat washes herself, but bad when she licks her coat against the grain, or washes her face over her ear, or sits with her tail to the fire. As, too, the cat is supposed not only to have a good knowledge of the state of the weather, but a certain share in the arrangement of it, it is considered by sailors to be most unwise to provoke it. Hence they do not much like to see a cat on board at all, and when one happens to be more frisky than usual they have a popular saying that "the cat has got a gale of wind in her tail."

A charm often resorted to for raising a storm is to throw a cat overboard; but, according to a Hungarian proverb, as a cat does not die in water, its paws disturb the surface; hence the flaws on the surface of the water are nicknamed by sailors "cat's paws." In the same way, also, a larger flurry of the water is a "cat's skin," and in some parts of England popular name for the stormy northwest wind is the "cat's nose."

GERMAN SUPERSTITIONS.

Among other items of weather lore associated with the cat, there is a superstition in Germany that, if it rains when women have a large washing on hand, it is an infallible sign that they have a spit against them, owing to their not having treated these animals well. We may also compare the Dutch idea that a rainy wedding day results from the bride's not feeding her cat; whereas, in the valleys of the Tyrol, girls who are fond of cats are said always to marry early, perhaps, as Mrs. Bush remarks, "an evidence that household virtues are appreciated in them by the men." Once more, there is a German belief that any one who, during his lifetime, may have made cats his enemies is certain to be accompanied to the grave amidst a storm of wind and rain.

Apart, however, from the weather lore superstitions associated with the cat there is an extensive class of other beliefs, as, for instance, those relating to folk medicine. Thus, in Cornwall, the little gatherings which come on children's eyelids, locally termed "whisks," are cured by passing the tail of a black cat nine times over the part affected. As recently as the year 1867, in Pennsylvania, a woman was publicly accused of witchcraft for administering three drops of a black cat's blood to a child as a remedy for rööp. She admitted the fact, but denied that witchcraft had anything to do with it, and twenty witnesses were called to prove its success. Again, "in many regions," we are told by Mr. Conway, "a three-colored cat protects against fire, and a black can cure epilepsy and protects gardens."

Formerly in Scotland, when a family removed from one house to another, the cat was always taken, one reason being that it served as a protection against disease. Indeed, before a member of the family entered the new abode, the cat was thrown into it. There was a superstitious notion that, if a curse or disease had been left on the house, the cat became the victim and died, to the saving of the family's lives. It is curious, however, to find the opposite practice kept up in Ireland, where it is considered highly unlucky for a family to take with them a cat when they are moving, more especially, too, when they have to cross a river.

IN TIMES OF ILLNESS.

Mr. Gregor also tells us that, in the northeast of Scotland, if a cow or other domestic animal was seized with disease, one mode of cure was to twist a rope of straw the contrary way, join the two ends, and put the diseased animal through the loop along with a cat. By this means the disease was supposed to be transferred to the cat, and the animal's life was so saved by the cat dying. This, of course, was only one of the extensive charms of which the leading idea was that of substitution.

A remedy for erysipelas lately practiced in the parish of Locharron, in the northwest highlands, consisted in cutting off one-half of the ear of a cat and letting the blood drop on the part affected. Alluding, moreover, to the numerous other items of folk lore in connection with the cat, there is a popular notion that a May cat—a cat born in the month of May—is of no use for catching rats and mice, but exerts an injurious influence on the house through bringing into it disagreeable reptiles of various kinds.

Mrs. Latham, in her "West Sussex Superstitions," says that a May cat is supposed "to be inclined to melancholy, and to be much addicted to catching snakes and to bringing them into the house." I had heard that this west country belief existed in our village; and, very lately, observing a most dejected looking cat by the fire in a cottage, said in jest: "I should think that cat was born in May." "Oh, yes," said the owner of it; "that she was, and so was her mother; and she was just as sad looking, and was always bringing snakes and vipers within doors."

Mr. Henderson, speaking of this superstition, tells us that an old north country woman on one occasion said to a lady: "It's no wonder Jock"—the lassies marry off so fast; yo ken what a brav black cat the 've got." It is considered unlucky to dream of a cat, a piece of folk-lore prevalent in Germany, where it one dreams of a black cat at Christmas it is an omen of some alarming illness during the following year.

Equally unfortunate, too, is it for a cat to sneeze, this act being supposed to indicate that the family will have colds. Thus, we are informed by Mrs. Latham that in Sussex "even the most favored cat, if heard to sneeze, is instantly 'shut out of doors; for should she stay to repeat the sneeze three times indoors, the whole family will have colds and coughs."

—New York Mail and Express.

STRANGE CREATURES OF THE DEEP.

Stories of Marines Proving That the Sea Serpent Is Not a Myth.

Of late years there has been a growing tendency to place more credence than was at one time done in these tales of sea monsters appearing in untoward places and at inconvenient times to seafaring men of much credulity. No doubt the stories of the sea serpent and the like were, many of them, proved to be little better than sailors' yarns, spun for the amusement of greenhorns. Sometimes they were shown to have been grossly perverted narrations, which, when stripped of their fictitious embroidery, shrank to very prosaic dimensions; and not unfrequently what perfectly honest people believed and tried to make others believe to be horrid monsters turned out to be bunches of seaweed, drift logs covered with barnacles, ribbon fishes of no great size, or even seals and basking sharks. Hence there has been a proneness to place all these stories in the same category, and, perhaps for this very reason, sailors sensitive to ridicule have become rather chary of "logging" such uncommon subjects. At the same time, unless everything like evidence is to be dismissed as fable when it does not fit into the preconceived notions of the theorist, it is idle to pretend that all these reports are due either to optical illusion or to deliberate fraud.

Most of the men who have put their observations on record are notoriously of good character, keen eyesight and so long familiar with every appearance which the surface of the sea presents that it is simply shirking the question to suppose that they must have been deceived or were attempting to deceive others. In many instances an entire ship's crew saw the monster and in not a few the witnesses have been well known merchant captains, or even the commanders of vessels in the royal navy. Thus Capt. Hope, of her majesty's ship *Fly*, saw, fifty years ago, in the Gulf of California, a creature not unlike an alligator, with a long neck and four paddles, which many zoologists of eminence have not hesitated to regard as an animal of the ichthyosaurus or plesiosaurus type, that may have survived from ancient times in the still unexplored depths of the ocean. Again, Capt. McQuahie, of her majesty's ship *Dædalus*, saw a snake-like animal, which Richard Owen imagined might have been a large sea elephant. But the eye witnesses, all of whom were well acquainted with the species in question, unhesitatingly repudiated this hypothesis.

Scarcely more mysterious is the story of the huge "snake" which the crew of the *Pauline* saw fourteen years ago, called twice round a sperm whale in the South Atlantic, and then, after towering up many feet in the air, dragging its prey to the bottom. Still more recently Capt. Pearson and Lieut. Hayne, of her majesty's yacht *Osborne*, actually reported seeing off the coast of Sicily a snake-like animal fully thirty feet in length, with triangular fins rising five or six feet above the water, huge flippers which moved like those of a turtle, and a head six feet in length. This might possibly, as Dr. Andrew Wilson has suggested, have been a monstrous ribbon fish, though at the same time there were circumstances connected with its appearance which render this suggestion of doubtful value. Dr. Gunther, among other eminent ichthyologists, regarding the hypothesis as out of keeping with what is known regarding the habits of the regaleucus.

Some of the "sea serpents" may, perhaps, have been simply basking sharks, the bones washed up on the shores of the Isle of Skye, in the Orkneys, and for a time thought to belong to some such animal, being now assigned to a species of Selachia. Great cuttle fishes are also accountable for some of the "snakes" seen by mariners. Such, undeniably, was the Kraken which Hans Egede figures in his famous work on Greenland, and which time and again has been noticed off the American shores of such dimensions as to be quite capable of fighting an unequal battle with the stoutest men. Every allowance being made for the cuttle fish, the shark, the ribbon fish, the floating seaweed, the school of porpoises, the flight of sea fowl and the like, there remain a number of well-authenticated appearances which there is no accounting for in any such self-complacent fashion. We might, perhaps, dismiss the "So-Orn" of Magnus and Pontoppidan as marvels of an unscientific age, though in all other matters these clerical historians were as circumstantial as bishops ought to be.—London Standard.

A newspaper "Fake" in China. Some time ago the *Tien Shih Chai*, an illustrated newspaper which is published in Shanghai, contained a long article concerning "The Manufacture of Soap and Fertilizers from Human Bodies in Europe." The article was very minute. It described the whole process of manufacture in detail, from the decapitation and disemboweling of the bodies to the stamping of violets and roses on the finished soap cakes and the packing of the fertilizer for shipment. Numerous illustrations calculated to raise Chinese hair and to curl Chinese blood embellished the grecous text. Just how the editors of the *Tien Shih Chai* discovered that their European correspondent had been libeling European civilization they refuse to say. That the discovery, when made, quite upset them, however, is evident from this very abject retraction in a recent copy of their publication:

"As we subsequently learned by investigation, the descriptions of European soap and manure factories formerly published by us are only the plans and inventions of scientific men which have never been put into practice, and, therefore, our account of these factories and our pictures were wholly false. In the future we will make every effort to keep all untruthful articles out of our columns. We make this announcement in order that through the foreign and Chinese press we may confess our mistake, which we hope has done no harm."—New York Standard.

FAIRY BEDSTEADS.

SOME FACTS CULLED FROM HISTORY AND OBSERVATION.

A Genealogy Superior to That of Any Other Piece of Furniture—Furniture That Were Celebrated and Others That Were Greatly Feared.

The first bed was of Nature's making, and beautifully had Milton depicted its existence in Eden, where it was prepared for our first parents "in close recess, with flowers, garlands and sweet smelling herbs." Hence, with such a world wide history, and possessed of a genealogy to which no other article of furniture can lay claim, it is not surprising that the bedstead is crowded with associations of the most eventful and historic character.

But, confining ourselves to modern times, we find numerous instances in which these honored fabrics, apart from their domestic use, as affording repose to the weary, have been only too frequently associated with sad memories, and been the scene of many an unavowed mystery. Thus, cases like the murder of the young prince in the Tower at once occur to us; and Shakespeare's tragic scene, where Ophelia smothered Desdemona, is too well known to need comment.

Novelists, again, like Wilkie Collins, have used the bed to good purpose in some of their sensational stories, as in the case of the mysterious bedstead which, after the manner of a clothes press, is made to screw up, so as to another for unsuspecting occupant. Then there are beds whose surroundings have had the reputation of being haunted, and refusing sleep to any one sufficiently bold to commit his weary frames to such an uncanny quarter; while fairies love abounds in tales and legends of those who, while seeking the sweetness of repose in some enchanted bed, have had visions revealed to them of wondrous unearthly sights in the land of dreams.

Some idea, again, of the importance formerly attached to certain bedsteads may be gathered from old wills, where we find bed clothes and sheets as things specially prized. Thus an Anglo-Saxon lady gave to one of her children "her best bed curtain liner, and all the clothes belonging to it" and to another child she leaves "two sheets and all the bed clothes that to one belong."

When Cardinal Wolsey took a lease of Hampton Manor and manor house in the year 1514 he received twenty "bedsteads" as part of the demise. Entries of this kind are very numerous, and show in what high esteem the comfort and niceness of the beds were held by our forefathers.

It may be noted, too, that in days gone by many allusions occur to a smaller bedstead, which, rolled under the larger one, was designed usually for a valet or servant. Thus every reader will remember the well known speech of mine host of the Garter in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" (iv, 5), who says of Falstaff's room: "There's his chamber, his house, his castle, his standing bed and truckle bed." In the old manuscript of the romance of the "Comte d'Artos" the count lies in the bed under the canopy, while the truckle bed is occupied by his valet.

Of the many further bedsteads which have acquired an historic fame may be mentioned one in the bedroom of Mary, Queen of Scots, at Holyrood palace. It is covered with red damask, and is popularly stated to have been slept in by the unfortunate sovereign, although there is considerable doubt on this point.

At Burnley, it may be remembered, is preserved the bedstead occupied by Queen Elizabeth on her visits to the lord treasurer, Burleigh. It stands in a room in the western first floor of the mansion, known as Queen Elizabeth's bedroom, and is distinguished by its green velvet hangings. Paul Hentzler, in his visit to Windsor in the year 1598, notices the beds belonging to former princes as measuring eleven feet square, and speaks of Queen Elizabeth's bed, with its curious, rich embroidery, as not so large as the others.

A famous bedstead of the Fifteenth century was long preserved at Leicester and is generally supposed to have been slept on by Richard III. The under part of it formed his military chest, and, as most readers are aware, the discovery of the treasure a century afterwards occasioned a barbican murder. But none of the coins discovered were of a later mint than this reign. Furthermore, it is said by Pennant that a stump bedstead kept in Berkley castle is the same on which the murder of Edward II was committed.

Then there are the royal beds of Hampton court, with their rich hangings, and the famous bed of Ware, in Hertfordshire, has long ago become proverbial. Nothing is known of the original history of this enormous bedstead—no less than twelve feet square—and which, in years past, formed one of the distinguishing features of the man known as the "Saracen's Head." According to one popular tradition, this gigantic piece of furniture was made by a certain Jonas Forbroke, a journeyman carpenter, and presented to the royal family in the year 1463. Edward IV rewarded the industry of the donor by granting him a pension for life. Anyhow, many strange stories have centered around this bed, and a popular legend says that one Harrison Sixby, of Lancashire—a master of the horse to King Henry VIII—having fallen deeply in love with the daughter of a miller residing near Ware, swore that he would do anything to win her favor. He accordingly sought the girl at her home, and, after laying bare the most secret of the most secret places, he would have her to his bedchamber. He was received with open arms, and the two youths were riotous in rainbow hues. Green fields turn to gold. Orchards cast off their verdant mantles and expose their treasures of gleaming fruit. The husbandman goes forth in the crisp dawn and returns in the mellow twilight laden with the ripe products of his industry. It is the time of harvest and busy content.

The clear air is alive with showers of glittering leaves, and the foot rustles in glowing drifts which have been builded by the soft winds. A sense of calm happiness and peaceful fellow feeling with all animate and inanimate creation pervades the soul. Life seems worth living for itself, even though no future reward stirred to noble deeds. Man feels his intimate kinship with the soul of the universe, be it manifested in rock or tree or dumb animal or fellowman.—Indianapolis News.

Time, the magician of the age, is at work with cunning art. See him bending above this great whirling globe, which is his laboratory. His flowing hair and beard stray out upon the breezes like snowy cloud pennants in the sky. From his right hand drifts and float back the departing glories of the summer. In his left hand is the first sparkling, glistening forerunner of winter.

Bold! With mysterious gestures the wrinkled hands approach nearer together. Now they spread above the earth as in benediction, and again draw near together. Hail! The winter and summer meet in the alchemy of nature thus is a glorious combination. A thousand flaming dyed stain the foliage. The hills are crowned with glory and the valleys are riotous in rainbow hues. Green fields turn to gold. Orchards cast off

their verdant mantles and expose their treasures of gleaming fruit. The husbandman goes forth in the crisp dawn and returns in the mellow twilight laden with the ripe products of his industry. It is the time of harvest and busy content.

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More in Reserve.

Lord Lonsdale was said to have more daughters than any other member of the British aristocracy.

At one time he was at a German watering place, and took a walk in company with his six oldest daughters. Some Germans, a little behind him, gazed at the procession, and presently one of them remarked in an undertone: "Alas! poor man."

Lord Lonsdale caught the words and turned immediately.

The pine trees in and around Thomasville have been and still are her most powerful magnets. The medical profession are on record in this country and Europe as to the healing qualities of soft southern breezes when blown through forests of pines. Catching and bearing on their wings, as they do, the rich aroma of the pines, they bring back to the sense of health to wasted cheeks and kindle the eye again with hope.—Thomasville Journal.

The Baby and the Dollar.

A porpoise clad woman holding a baby on her arm entered a crowded Myrtle avenue surface car yesterday and looked about for a seat. The baby held in its chubby fist a big silver dollar, and as the baby was chewing on it vigorously while its mother was looking for a seat every woman in the car knew instantly that the baby was teething. Its mother got a seat finally, and the passengers got interested in the baby and the silver dollar. For a minute nearly the whole of the coin was in the baby's mouth, when suddenly, with a gasp and with watering eyes, the pudgy fist pulled out the dollar from the puckery orifice and waved the money recklessly in the face of an elderly lady along side.

This performance was repeated again and again, and when the elderly lady seemed about to make some demonstration of disapproval the baby's arm waved toward the window, and the silver dollar dropped from its fingers into the space between the car window and the seat and struck the floor of the car with a plunk. Under the front of the long seat the space was boarded up and the coin could not be reached.

"Oh, baby," said the mother, with her voice in a tremble.

"You'd better go to the end of the line, mum, to get your money," said the conductor.

The woman said she had to get off with the baby and the bus stopped. Several men who had been listening straightened themselves out and began to work their hands down into their trouser pockets, and one man whispered to another that a collection should be taken up.

Finally the conductor said if the passengers didn't mind disturbing themselves he would get the money. So everybody sitting on the side of the car where the dollar was lost got up, and the conductor pulled out the entire seat, reached behind it, got the coin, gave it to the mother, and, after a good deal of difficulty with the seat, pushed it back, and the passengers sat down.

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The mother said thank you, as she passed out of the car, and the baby grabbed the dollar and was biting it for business when she disappeared.—New York Sun.

Chinese Wisdom.

Fortitude is attended with profit.

The straightest trees are the first felled.

Life is a journey, and death a return home.

Caustic anger resembles waves without wind.

It is better to suffer an injury than to commit one.

The loftiest building arises from small acrations.

A discontented man is like a snake who would swallow an elephant.

To persecute the unfortunate is like throwing stones on one fallen into a well.

If men will have no care for the future they will soon have sorrow for the past.

Kind feeling may be paid with kind feeling, but debts must be paid with hard cash.

Heav both sides and all will be clear; hear but one and you will still be in the dark.

While silent consider your own faults, and while speaking spare those of others.

The house where learning abounds will rise; that in which pleasure prevails will fall.

Those above should not oppress those below, nor those below encroach on those above.

DAILY NEVADA STATE JOURNAL

C. CROWING Editor and Proprietor

UNLIMITED SILVER COINAGE.

Senator Stewart contributes a special article to the New York Weekly Tribune of January 21st, in which he makes a powerful argument in favor of the unlimited coinage of silver. The Tribune says of it:

The Nevada Senator is recognized as the foremost champion of this policy, and he has supplied in the article the titles upon which he has preached many a silver sermon. He states his points with great clearness, and while we cannot endorse all of them unreservedly, nor even concede that his conclusions are in every case the necessary consequence of his facts, it must be admitted that he presents a strong case, deserving the thoughtful consideration of the public.

The Senator sees in any other policy than unlimited coinage a conspiracy in behalf of all creditors to keep money as dear as possible so as to make their property—money—scarce and hard to accumulate, and every other property—produce cheap and easy to get. Thus, in his view, monometallism means a contraction of the purchasing material to such an extent as to increase obligations and decrease prices, both effects being to the advantage of the creditor or wealthy classes and to the injury of the debtor or poorer classes. He advocates unlimited coinage in the belief that an increased supply of money would equalize these conditions.

The contention that it would cause a withdrawal of gold is ridiculed by Senator Stewart as absurd and incapable of proof. He holds that neither metal can possibly be produced in quantities sufficient to supply the demands of commerce. Our present policy is held to be in the interest of Great Britain, enabling her to fix the market price of silver, and to buy it cheaply of us, and sell it dearly in her Indian market, earning a profit on both transactions. It is evident that no compromise is likely to satisfy the advocates of silver coinage, and that while they will take what they can get their resolute intention is to come back and renew their appeals until they can get what they want.

SHERIFF'S FEES.

Amounts Collected From the State, Until Paid to the County.

Judge Spencer, of the Santa Clara Superior Court, has rendered a decision that interests the Sheriffs of the various counties of California. It was in the suit of Santa Clara against Jonathan Saiger, the Sheriff, to recover \$1,110, which he had collected from the State for taking prisoners to the penitentiary and insane persons to the State asylums.

When the county brought suit for the amount the Sheriff demurred on the ground that no cause of action had been averred, and that he had the right under the State Act; also, that if he had no right to convert the money to his own use, the suit should be against the State.

In his opinion Judge Spencer takes the ground that the money should be collected from the State by the Sheriff and turned over to the County Treasury. This practically ends the case.

A bill has been introduced in Congress to increase the salaries of Federal Judges. It proposes to double the present compensation of members of the Supreme Court and to considerably increase that of Circuit and District Judges. The salaries now paid the Federal Judiciary have remained fixed for a great many years, and while they may have been fairly remunerative when established they are not so now, by reason both of the increased cost of living and of the greater labor and responsibility now devolving upon the Federal Judiciary. It is a distinguished honor to occupy a place on the bench of a United States Court, and there will doubtless never be a time when the demand for these positions does not exceed the supply; but this does not furnish any reason why Federal judges should not receive such reasonable liberal compensation as would at least enable them to live as becomes the judicial representatives of the Government, and as the class of legal ability that should be preferred for the federal bench ought to receive. This matter of increasing the salaries of United States Judges has been talked of for a number of years and the proposal has always met with very general public approval.

Whether Congress would be justified in doubling judicial salaries is another question. The mere fact that there is a large surplus in the Treasury affords no valid excuse for extravagance.

Blaine and Bayard as Diplomats.

Mr. Bayard was so anxious to give up men to England for political offenses that he would not conclude a treaty to include only the common crimes. Possibly the fact that both the Senate and the people rejected Mr. Bayard's scandalous treaty, and rejected it with indignation, made the British Government more ready to negotiate a common-sense treaty with Mr. Blaine. However that may be, Mr. Blaine deserves credit for making a treaty which has properly guarded all rights that ought to be guarded.—*New York Herald*.

The Constitution Tinkers.

Twenty-nine amendments to the Constitution have been submitted to Congress this session. It is extremely fortunate that the method of securing an amendment to the Constitution is so roundabout. If it were not so the schoolboy of a century hence would have to put in a year's time in reading it through once.

Mr. Cleveland's Little Joke.

Mr. Cleveland might make money in a small way by going into the business of furnishing jokes to mineral companies. A late remark of his to the effect that the Democratic party absorbs the "brains," intelligence, and honesty of the country, ranks with the choicest humor of the burnt cork profession. [Toledo Blade.]

Intellectual Australians.

While Peter Jackson, the Australian slugger, is entertaining the Americans with his artistic fist recitals, Henry George of America, will discuss economic subjects in Australia. This arrangement probably quits the intelligent Australians very well. [Chicago News.]

Still on Top.

The whisky "treat" is to be abolished, but a white "corporation" is to be formed to supply the same.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC STATEMENT.

A Decrease of Surplus in 1888.

The San Francisco Chronicle says the financial statement of the Southern Pacific Company for the year 1888 was completed Wednesday by Secretary Lansing. It shows a small increase in net earnings and in the excess of earnings over operating expenses, but other causes decrease the surplus to \$1,344,295 73, against \$2,698,854 41 in 1888. The following are the principal items in the statement:

Receipts—Gross earnings from railroads and steamship lines: 1888, \$16,699,616 17; 1889, \$16,343,207 86; decrease, \$356,407 31. Operating expenses of railroads and steamships: 1888, \$8,708,676 03; 1889, \$8,304,365 75; decrease, \$404,310 28. Earnings over operating expenses: 1888, \$8,159,990, 934; 1889, \$8,126,842 11; increase, \$47,902 97. Net earnings of transportation lines: \$22,693 51. Dividends on stock owned: 1888, \$814,780; 1889, \$2,240; decrease, \$812,540. Total: 1888, \$17,188,285, 07; 1889, \$10,146,190 45; decrease, \$1,042,094 62.

Expenditures—Taxes: 1888, \$768,050; 1889, \$1,210,042 34; increase, \$447,551 71. Botters and additions payable by lessee: 1888, \$732,018 56; 1889, \$451,104 22; decrease, \$270,914 34. Interest on floating debt: balance, 1888, \$62,808 70; 1889, \$145,137 50; increase, \$82,328 80. Interest on bonds, paid or accrued: 1888, \$9,020,820 57; 1889, \$10,472,802 25; increase, \$163,071 08. Fixed charges and for leased lines: 1888, \$2,995,754 69; 1889, \$2,134,047 36; decrease, \$851,707 23. Total: 1888, \$14,801,804 72; increase, \$286,063 87.

Surplus—Southern Pacific Company and proprietary lines, 1888, \$2,583,854 41; 1889, \$1,344,295 73; decrease, \$1,344,558 68.

The two principal causes of the decrease in the surplus for 1888 have been the construction of new lines, which have not, as a whole, paid operating expenses, and the collapse of the boom in Southern California, which has greatly reduced the income from that direction. During 1888 and 1889 the company built 416 miles of new road in this State and from them has received additional earnings amounting to \$4,916,000 at an additional cost for operating expenses of \$5,072,000, which accounts for \$127,000 of the decrease.

While the business arising in Southern California has greatly decreased, business throughout the northern part of the State and Oregon shows an improvement for the year.

The Atlantic system of the Southern Pacific Company, which includes all rail lines east of El Paso and the Morgan lines of steamships running from New Orleans to New York, Havana and Mexican ports, shows an increase in earnings over operating expenses during the year of \$284,472 70, while the Pacific system shows a decrease of \$23,589 73. The excess on the Atlantic system gives the total increase of \$47,902 97 in earnings over operating expenses.

The increase noted on the Atlantic system has arisen from the Gulf and Atlantic steamship lines of the Southern Pacific Company, which are proving very profitable investments. The excess of earnings over operating expenses of the steamship lines, when segregated from the railroad earnings, show \$658,338 as such excess.

The increase in taxes has also cut a fine figure in reducing the surplus. The increase is partially due to the increase of taxable property by the construction of new lines and partly to the increased rate fixed by the Board of Equalization. The increase in interest on bonds is due to the new bonds floated to build the recently constructed lines.

It is stated that of the \$451,104 22 expended in "barters and additions payable by lessee," which includes new stations, etc., \$356,000 has gone to the Central Pacific lines.

The year 1888 was an exceptionally favorable year and the surplus given for the past year is but little less than that for 1887, which was \$1,458,251 23.

A CONTINENTAL SILVER COIN.

A Proposition from Mr. Estee to the Pan-American Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—M. M. Estee, one of the American representatives to the Pan-American Congress, proposes a plan to secure a common silver coin in all American countries. His proposition is as follows.

The nations represented at this Congress shall have power to coin an international silver coin of uniform weight and fineness.

The name of each nation coining such money shall appear on every piece made by such nation.

Such coin shall consist of 41 1/4 grains silver.

The United States shall not coin less than two million nor more than four million each month, and the Republics of Mexico, Central and South America and Hayti shall coin in the aggregate not to exceed four million each month, the amount of each coinage by each of the said republics to be apportioned among the said last-named republics according to population.

This international silver coin shall be a legal tender in all commercial transactions between citizens of the nations using it and citizens of all other American Republics belonging to the monetary union.

Upon the dissolution of the American Monetary Union or suspension of the coinage of international coin, the nation coining it shall receive the same at par for all public dues and in commercial transactions, and the citizens of such nation shall continue to receive the same, and for that purpose it shall be a legal tender, notwithstanding such dissolution of said monetary union or such suspension of coinage.

The American Monetary Union which is herein created shall come into full force and effect on the 1st day of January, 1889, and shall remain in full force and operation for the term of — years hereafter, and if one year before the expiration of said year the nation or nations forming said monetary union, and which shall actually coin one-half or more of said continental coin, shall not have declared said American Monetary Union terminated by notice given to the other nations forming said

union, the same shall continue to be

A BOY SHOOTS ANOTHER.

A MEXICAN BLACK BART HELPS HIMSELF TO WELLS FARGO'S BOX.

All the Latest News of the Morning In a Condensed Form.

In the Senate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The Senate took up the bill to provide a temporary government for the Territory of Oklahoma, adopted some amendments and laid the matter over.

Blair spoke two hours on the Educational bill, and then yielded the floor to conclude Monday.

The conference report on the Senate joint resolution for the removal of obstructions to navigation in the Missouri river was presented and agreed to.

The House amendment reducing the amount from \$250,000 to \$75,000, and inserting a provision for \$75,000 for improvements at the mouth of the Columbia river, was adopted.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

Dying at Her Silver Wedding.

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—The celebration of a silver wedding came to a tragic termination, recently. Mrs. Hannah Rosenberg, wife of Jacob Rosenberg, dropped dead in the arms of her husband. The guests were assembled in the parlors, and Mrs. Rosenberg was in a particularly happy mood. She had been joking with the young people and telling them that she was as young as any of them. At 7 o'clock supper was announced, and Mrs. Rosenberg rose to leave the parlor. Without a cry or a moan, she sank into her husband's arms and expired.

Stage Robbery.

FRONTERA, Ariz., Feb. 6.—The down stage from Casa Grande this morning was held up by a masked Mexican, about 12 miles from Florence. Wells Fargo's express box was taken. It is not known how much money was secured. The mails were not disturbed. Dr. J. M. Hurley was on board the stage but was not robbed. The robber was a slimly built Mexican. A posse has been organized for pursuit.

House Bills.

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The following bills were introduced in the House to day and referred: By Williams, of Illinois, directing the Secretary of the Treasury, to purchase at the market price \$4,000,000 worth of silver bullion per month for the coinage of standard silver dollars. By Dorse, authorizing issue \$300,000,000, 50-year two per cent. United States bonds, to be used exclusively for the purpose of assuring circulation of national banking associations.

The House passed, after a short discussion, the bill extending two years time within which the Kansas City & Pacific Railroad Company may construct a line through the Indian Territory.

Adjourned.

The Insatiable English.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 6.—The Star asserts that an English syndicate is negotiating for the purchase of all the principal such and door factories in the country. Options have already been secured on thirty-five different plants, including the Western such and door factory in this city, the largest plant of the kind in the United States, with branches at Muscatine, Ia., St. Joseph Mo., and other points.

Another Loaded Gun.

Special to the JOURNAL.

HAILENDALE, Cal., Feb. 6.—This evening two 11-Charles Seawell and Nellie Hemstreet proposed to play duet at the old workings. They got forgotten to be able to see groups of dead, but could not reach them, and were compelled to retreat by suffocating volumes of smoke. Upon the first appearance of a diminution in the volume of smoke they went down the main shaft and rescued a large number of miners yet alive, but all badly burned. They brought out 60 dead bodies, nearly all so mangled as to render identification impossible. The latest estimate of the dead is 150.

An Immense Slide.

Special to the JOURNAL.

ASHLAND, Or., Feb. 6.—The report has just been received from Glendale of an immense slide on the railroad, half a mile south of West Fork, in Cow Creek Canyon. The slide came from the high mountain down to the bottom of the canyon, 800 or 1,000 feet, on to the track. The report says trees are still standing on the slide the same as when it started from the summit.

The water is backed up in the canyon for a distance of three miles, and is from fifty to seventy-five feet deep. Tunnel 3 is completely buried in water. The creek is cutting through the slide at present.

Telegraph linemen have been unable to get a wire through. They built a raft to day, and will try to-morrow to get a line across the lake that has been formed, and which is reported 500 feet across.

San Francisco's Rotten Jail.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—The Grand Jury to-day presented a report of their investigation into the condition of the County Jail, undertaken after the escape of six prisoners in January. The Jury say that while they find at the time such escape was general looseness and lack of watchfulness on the part of the officers of the jail, they have not found that any officer charged with the custody of the escaped prisoners fraudulently contrived at or voluntarily permitted such escape. The jail is utterly unfit for the purposes for which it is used.

The walls are rotten and crumbling and that perhaps half dozen determined men on the outside could, under cover of darkness, cut through the walls in less than fifteen minutes and effect a general jail break.

Edmunds Piqued.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—In the executive session of the Senate to-day the motions made by Edmunds, with reference to the Samoan treaty, were tabled, whereupon Edmunds stated he desired to be excused from further service on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Nominations.

Special to the JOURNAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Nominations: Jacob Cope, Postmaster, Phoenix, Ariz.; Supervisors of Census, Arizona, Charles S. Clark; California, John F. Sheehan, First District.

Mine Fire.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Feb. 6.—The fire in the Pettington shaft by which four men were seriously burned yesterday, is spreading and the shaft has been sealed up.

Killed by the Cars.

Special to the JOURNAL.

PASADENA, Feb. 6.—Mrs. J. S. Moore was run over by a San Fe train here this morning, and died in the Sister's hospital this evening.

A Bloody Britisher.

Special to the JOURNAL.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—The British man-of-war *Swiftsure*, the flagship of

the British fleet, arrived here this morn

OUR HIGHEST TRIBUNAL.

Supreme Judges Off the Bench.

[Copyright 1860 by Frank G. Carpenter.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—One hundred years ago next Tuesday

DAILY NEVADA STATE JOURNAL

PRICE OF DAILY JOURNAL,
12 CENTS PER WEEK.

BREVITIES.

The freight trains are kept moving these days.

Miss Emma Dean was a passenger for California last night.

C. H. E. Hardin and Mr. Cecil came up from the Bay yesterday.

John W. Mackay will leave New York for San Francisco next Saturday.

A social dance will be given at Verdi to-night, by Cozzens & Wheeler, at the Depot House.

The windows of the notion stores are already being bedecked with the emblems for St. Valentine's Day.

Bob Parry says he will have a rest to-day, as nearly all the snowbound cattle have been shipped out.

A shipment of twenty-one bars of bullion has been advised from Gen. Cal & Va. This represents the total output for January.

The Verdi Mill Co. is now running day and night. The electric light plant works well, and enables the mill to be kept in continuous operation.

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The Paper Mail.

The Times-Review remarks: All of the back numbers of the San Francisco papers from the 14th to the 31st, inclusive, arrived by last night's express. The Times-Review received its entire complement of California exchanges, a portion from Reno and Winnemucca, but none from the Comstock or Carson. As we have before remarked, there is gross negligence somewhere in the postal service in this State and we have reason to believe that it is on the trains of the Central Pacific. There is no reason why the papers that are sent by mail should not reach here as regularly as those conveyed by express, and it is to be hoped that the special agents of the Government will make such reports as will result in a wholesome change and reform.

The Raging Carson.

The Carson river has been so very much swollen from the rapidly melting snow that the flats at Empire are submerged and the lower portion of the town, bordering upon the river is flooded. Wednesday the flood had backed up so as to stop the Mexican and Morgan mills from working. The result was that the miners in the Crown Point and Belcher mines had to be knocked off again until the flood subsides.

Spring Running Meeting.

The Board of Directors of the Blood-horse Association held a meeting Wednesday, and settled one or four days' programme for a Spring meeting, commencing April 12th. The expression of opinion was unanimous in favor of liberal purses, and a bribe over \$2,500 a day will be awarded. Entries to events will be open up to March 5th.

The Tuscarora Times-Review says:

Altus Bros. have turned out 1,500 head of cattle they were feeding at their ranch, to browse on the bare spots which the thaw has made in the valley and adjacent foothills. They have hay enough to feed what stock they are still keeping up, for about a month and they have a number of men employed cutting willows on the river bottom, the tops of which are eaten with avidity in the absence of other food, by the famishing kind.

Frost Bitten.

The Walker Lake Bulletin has this: Last Friday morning Horace Poor and Langworthy left Aurora to walk to Hawthorne. The snow was deep and the day cold, and it was with the utmost difficulty that they reached Rogan's station, where it was discovered that their feet were badly frozen. They were brought to town on Sunday and are now under the care of Dr. Reed, who says they will be all right in a few days.

Chapter Officers.

The following officers were elected and installed last night by Reno Chapter, No. 7, R. A. M.: F. J. Winchell, M. E. H. P.; Geo. H. Fog, K. Geo. H. Cunningham, S.; H. P. Kraus, Tres.; W. L. Bechtel, Secy.; T. K. Hymer, R. A. Capt.; Chas. Courtois, Guard.

The Walker Lake Bulletin says:

All of the fairest portions of Nevada are set aside for Indian reservations. Aside from Pyramid there are three other reservations, that one of Walker Lake, embracing the only respectable land in that section. Yet, had as this would seem, the Indians do not live on these choice lands, but are lounging around the towns, humbugging and stealing food and clothes, while the Indian agents are drawing for them. All this is wrong. If the whites of Nevada are forced to support the Indians they ought to have the privilege of using the Indian lands. Mr. Bartine will do well to get those reservations either entirely abolished or at least have only one in the State, which will be ample for all requirements. The matter should be agitated by the press.

The San Francisco Bulletin says:

Warm rains and fast-melting snow are causing many landslides in the Siskiyou Mountains, making the date of the opening of the Oregon route more problematical than ever. Trouble from slides from the same cause is feared in the Sierras. Necessary repairs to snowsheds have caused slight delays to West-bound trains. A large force of mechanics are bracing the sheds and putting them in order after the recent snows.

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STATE WEATHER SERVICE REPORT.

The Precipitation in December.

The State Weather Service Review for December, published at Carson, which was delayed by the blockade on the V. & T. R. R., is received. It is rather late now, but as everything relating to the extraordinary Winter from which we are emerging is of interest to the public, the following from the Review is published:

PRECIPITATION.

December, 1889, will go upon record as an exceptional year, as regards precipitation. In absence of official records throughout the State, prior to 1889, no definite estimate can be placed upon the excess, which was abnormal during the month over the entire State. The oldest residents of the State say that no such weather has been experienced up to the month of December since the Winter of 1867-8, when the snow was very heavy throughout the State. The storm which started in the latter days of November practically continued throughout December, there having been on an average 10.4 days upon which snow or rain fell at the 30 stations reporting, while the amounts are excessive from all localities, and in some instances great damage has been done to stock and property.

In the Sierra Nevada mountains the railroads were blockaded by from 18 to 20 feet of snow at Truckee and other places, which drifted so badly that travel could not be resumed for several days, while wagon roads were simply impassable for wheeled vehicles and the sleigh had to be resorted to for all purposes. In Humboldt county the snow is reported so deep that teams are entertained for the safety of bridges and dams when the June freshet comes. The Rio Virgin river, in the southern portion of Lincoln county, rose so high, under the preceding rainfall of 4.6 inches in that locality, that it overflowed its banks in many places and changed its course, washing everything in its path away, including dams and bridges. The storm was not local, for while in Nevada snow fell to immense depths, California, from its northern boundary to the Gulf of California, was deluged with excessive rains, which in some localities were very destructive, swelling the streams to such proportions that they overflowed their banks and made new channels in their meandering course, washing out railroads, bridges and everything that came in their way. In some of the canyons in Ormsby, Washoe, Lander and Humboldt counties, snow is reported in depths from 20 to 100 feet, and packed very solidly; this insures an abundant supply of water for mining and agricultural pursuits during the coming season. Lake Tahoe has risen 12 inches and there is many feet of snow in the mountains on all sides of it, which insures a further rise when warm weather comes.

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